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STATE***NATIONAL ISSUES: TAMIL NADU'S PUSH FOR MEKEDATU PROJECT DIALOGUE******SUBJECT: STATE (TAMIL NADU)***

- Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister urged the central government to mediate discussions with Karnataka on the contentious Mekedatu dam project, highlighting inter-state water disputes.
- The project involves constructing a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura, Karnataka, close to Tamil Nadu, with a capacity of 66,000 TMC to supply drinking water to Bengaluru.
- Tamil Nadu raised concerns about potential impacts on its water share from the Cauvery River, critical for its agricultural economy.
- The state government emphasized cooperative federalism, urging a fair resolution to protect farmers' interests in the Cauvery delta region.
- Concept: Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, governs the resolution of water-sharing conflicts, with tribunals like the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal playing a key role.
- Tamil Nadu's proactive stance follows Karnataka's willingness to discuss the project, as noted in recent statements by its Chief Minister.
- The issue underscores the need for equitable resource sharing and diplomatic negotiations to resolve inter-state tensions.

DEFENCE***DRDO ADVANCES INDIGENOUS DEFENCE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS******SUBJECT: DEFENCE***

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted field trials of two advanced communication systems developed by the Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL) in Dehradun.
- These systems enhance secure, real-time communication for the Indian Armed Forces across multiple operational domains.

- The trials are part of India's push for self-reliance in defence technology under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The systems are designed to counter electronic warfare threats, including those from drones, highlighted during recent India-Pakistan tensions.
- The technology supports joint operations, as demonstrated in the success of Operation Sindoor in May 2025.
- DRDO plans to integrate these systems into the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force by mid-2026.
- The development strengthens India's defence capabilities amid growing regional security challenges.

DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL APPROVES ₹1.05 LAKH CRORE PROPOSALS***SUBJECT: DEFENCE***

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Defence Minister, approved capital acquisition proposals worth ₹1.05 lakh crore to enhance India's defence capabilities.
- All proposals fall under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category, emphasizing 100% indigenous sourcing.
- Key approvals include Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Submersible Autonomous Vessels, and Super Rapid Gun Mounts.
- The DAC also cleared procurement of three regiments of Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QR-SAM) for the Indian Army's air defence.
- A ₹62,700 crore deal for 156 Light Combat Helicopters (Prachand) from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security.
- The decisions align with the Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for capability-driven procurement over 15 years.
- These measures strengthen India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing and strategic preparedness.

INDIA'S DEFENSE MODERNIZATION: INDIGENOUS WARSHIP COMMISSIONING

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Vikrant-II, a domestically built aircraft carrier, enhancing India's maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Tamil Nadu's shipyards, including Cochin Shipyard's collaboration, contributed to the carrier's construction, boosting the state's defense manufacturing profile.
- The commissioning aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, aiming for 70% indigenization in defense production by 2027.
- The carrier will strengthen India's strategic presence amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific, particularly with China's naval expansion.
- Concept: Maritime Security – Ensures India's dominance in regional waters and protects trade routes.
- Tamil Nadu's coastal defense infrastructure, including radar stations, is being upgraded to support such naval advancements.
- The project is expected to create over 10,000 direct and indirect jobs, benefiting local economies.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES ₹1,000 CRORE COASTAL DEFENCE INITIATIVE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Tamil Nadu announced a ₹1,000 crore Coastal Defence Initiative to strengthen maritime security along its 1,076 km coastline.
- The initiative includes deploying AI-based surveillance drones, coastal radar systems, and fast-response patrol boats.
- It aims to counter illegal fishing, smuggling, and potential security threats in the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar.
- The state will collaborate with the Indian Coast Guard and DRDO for technology integration and training.
- Concept: Maritime Security is critical for India's strategic interests, given its 7,516

km coastline and proximity to key shipping routes.

- Tamil Nadu's initiative complements the Centre's Sagarmala project, enhancing port security and coastal infrastructure.
- The project is expected to create 5,000 jobs in coastal districts, boosting local economies.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES ₹500 CRORE CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Tamil Nadu unveiled a ₹500 crore cybersecurity initiative to protect critical infrastructure, including power grids and public services, from rising cyber threats.
- The initiative includes establishing a Cyber Command Centre in Chennai, equipped with AI-driven threat detection systems developed in collaboration with DRDO.
- It aims to counter cyberattacks on financial institutions and government databases, following recent incidents in the state.
- Context: India's National Cyber Security Policy, 2013, encourages state-level cybersecurity frameworks to complement national efforts.
- The initiative will create 2,000 jobs in cybersecurity and train 10,000 professionals in ethical hacking and data protection by 2027.
- Tamil Nadu plans to collaborate with Israel and the US for technology transfer and capacity building in cybersecurity.
- This move supports the state's role in India's push for digital sovereignty under the Digital India program.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TESTS EXTENDED RANGE ANTI-SUBMARINE ROCKET

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- India conducted successful user trials of the Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR) from INS Kavaratti on July 10, 2025, showcasing advanced naval capabilities.
- Developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO), ERASR targets hostile submarines with high precision.

- The rocket is launched from Indigenous Rocket Launchers (IRLs) installed on Indian naval warships, reducing reliance on foreign defense imports.
- This development promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) in high-tech defense manufacturing, aligning with India's strategic maritime needs.
- The trials demonstrate India's growing expertise in producing battle-ready technologies for underwater threats.
- Concept: Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020: Governs indigenous procurement, emphasizing self-reliance and modernization of armed forces.
- The ERASR enhances India's maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, a region of increasing geopolitical significance.

DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL APPROVES ₹1.05 LAKH CRORE FOR INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT

SUBJECT: DEFENCE AND POLITY

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Defence Minister, approved capital acquisition proposals worth ₹1.05 lakh crore on July 10, 2025, under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category.
- Proposals include Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Submersible Autonomous Vessels, and Super Rapid Gun Mounts.
- The DAC also cleared the procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (Prachand) from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for ₹62,700 crore.
- These approvals enhance India's defense capabilities through 100% indigenous sourcing, reducing import dependency.
- The DAC's decisions align with the Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for a 15-year defense modernization roadmap.
- Concept: Defence Acquisition Council (DAC): Established post-Kargil War (1999), it ensures time-bound, cost-effective, and capability-driven procurement.

- This move strengthens India's strategic autonomy and supports the Make in India initiative.

INDIA-UK DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENED AT AERO INDIA 2025

SUBJECT: DEFENCE (INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL)

- India and the UK signed multiple defense agreements at Aero India 2025, launching the Defence Partnership-India (DP-I).
- A key agreement includes establishing an ASRAAM missile assembly facility in Hyderabad, a collaboration between MBDA UK and Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- The partnership involves joint development of next-generation weapons, including Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM) and STARStreak high-velocity missiles.
- A Statement of Intent was signed for Integrated Full Electric Propulsion (IFEP) systems for Indian Navy ships, enhancing maritime capabilities.
- Concept: Atmanirbhar Bharat in defense promotes indigenous production and reduces reliance on foreign imports.
- The agreements strengthen India's strategic autonomy and bolster ties with the UK, a key Quad ally.
- The Hyderabad facility marks a milestone in India's defense manufacturing ecosystem, supporting local employment and technology requirements.

DRDO AND IAF TEST ASTRA BVRAAM SUCCESSFULLY

SUBJECT: DEFENCE (NATIONAL)

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired the Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) on July 12, 2025.
- The missile, with an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, was tested for precision and reliability, integrated with Su-30 MKI aircraft.
- Developed by DRDO and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Astra enhances India's air combat capabilities.

- The test marks a milestone in India's self-reliance in defense technology under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Concept: Indigenous defense production reduces reliance on imports and strengthens national security.
- The success boosts India's defense exports and strategic partnerships with friendly nations.
- Future tests aim to integrate Astra with other platforms like Tejas and Rafale.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH ASEAN NATIONS

SUBJECT: DEFENCE – INTERNATIONAL

- India participated in the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta, focusing on maritime security and counter-terrorism.
- The meeting approved joint naval exercises in the South China Sea to enhance regional stability.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted India's commitment to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- India proposed co-production of defence equipment, including missiles, with ASEAN countries.
- The talks addressed China's growing influence in the region, emphasizing a rules-based order.
- Concepts: Look East Policy – India's strategic outreach to strengthen ties with ASEAN nations.
- Maritime Security: Critical for safeguarding India's trade routes in the Indo-Pacific.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH SRI LANKA

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- On July 15, 2025, India announced enhanced defence cooperation with Sri Lanka, focusing on maritime security and joint exercises.
- The agreement includes the supply of advanced radar systems to strengthen Sri Lanka's coastal defence.

- India's Defence Ministry emphasized interoperability through joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean.
- The move aligns with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.
- A new training program for Sri Lankan naval officers was launched at the Indian Naval Academy.
- Concept: Maritime Security: Protecting territorial waters and ensuring safe trade routes through naval cooperation.

DRDO TESTS ADVANCED AGNI MISSILE VARIANT

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- On July 15, 2025, DRDO successfully test-fired a new Agni missile variant with a 7.5-tonne conventional warhead for precise deep strikes.
- The missile, a modified Agni-V, supports India's 'No First Use' nuclear policy with non-nuclear capabilities.
- It targets a range of 2,000–2,500 km, suitable for tactical operations against enemy infrastructure.
- The test enhances India's deterrence strategy against regional threats.
- Tamil Nadu's defence manufacturing units, particularly in Chennai, contributed to the missile's development.
- Concept: Strategic Deterrence: Building military capabilities to prevent aggression without escalating to nuclear conflict.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH AUSTRALIA AT TALISMAN SABRE 2025

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- India participated in the Talisman Sabre 2025, a multinational military exercise hosted by Australia, involving 19 countries, held in July 2025.
- The Indian Navy deployed INS Tabar, a Talwar-class frigate, highlighting its stealth and operational capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The exercise focused on maritime security, joint operations, and countering regional

threats, reinforcing India's strategic presence.

- India's participation aligns with the Quad framework and promotes a free, open Indo-Pacific region.
- Advanced technologies, including swarm drones and AI-integrated systems, were tested during the exercise.
- The event builds on the 2020 India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, enhancing defence cooperation.
- Concepts: Maritime Security Strategy, Indo-Pacific Strategy—key pillars of India's defence and foreign policy.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH FRANCE AT TALISMAN SABRE 2025

SUBJECT: DEFENCE AND INTERNATIONAL

- India participated in the Talisman Sabre 2025, a multinational military exercise hosted by Australia, alongside France, the US, and 16 other nations.
- The Indian Navy deployed INS Tabar, a Talwar-class frigate, showcasing advanced stealth and missile capabilities.
- Tamil Nadu's Chennai-based INS Adyar provided logistical support for India's participation.
- The exercise focused on interoperability, maritime security, and countering non-conventional threats in the Indo-Pacific.
- India and France signed an agreement to co-develop advanced drone technology for maritime surveillance.
- This strengthens India's strategic presence in the Indo-Pacific amid rising tensions with China's 5,000 km radar deployment.
- Discussions held on integrating Tamil Nadu's defence manufacturing corridor into global supply chains.

INDIA STRENGTHENS INDO-PACIFIC PRESENCE AT QUAD SUMMIT 2025

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AND DEFENCE

- India participated in the Quad Summit 2025 in Tokyo, alongside the US, Japan, and Australia, focusing on Indo-Pacific security.
- The Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri, built in Chennai, was showcased during maritime exercises.
- Agreements signed to enhance maritime domain awareness and counter China's growing influence in the region.
- Tamil Nadu's defence manufacturing corridor in Coimbatore will support Quad's indigenous defence tech initiatives.
- Discussions included climate resilience and critical technology supply chains.
- India emphasized a rules-based international order, rejecting unilateral actions in the South China Sea.
- The summit reinforced India's strategic autonomy in global geopolitics.

INDIA BOOSTS DEFENCE MODERNIZATION WITH ₹1.2 LAKH CRORE PROCUREMENT

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Defence Acquisition Council approved ₹1.2 lakh crore for indigenous defence procurement, including drones and missile systems.
- Tamil Nadu's defence corridor in Hosur will manufacture components for Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QR-SAM).
- The deal includes 100% indigenous sourcing, boosting firms like Bharat Dynamics.
- INS Nilgiri, a Tamil Nadu-named stealth frigate, was inducted into the Navy in Chennai.
- The initiative aims to reduce import dependency and enhance self-reliance.
- Challenges include delays in technology transfer and skill gaps in defence manufacturing.
- The move strengthens India's readiness amid border tensions with China.

DEFENCE: INDIA ADVANCES INDIGENOUS DRONE MANUFACTURING

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- On July 19, 2025, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved a ₹10,000 crore proposal for indigenous drone production, strengthening India's self-reliance in defence technology.
- The approval includes manufacturing nano drones, ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) drones, and hand-launched UAVs at a new facility in Navi Mumbai by Vimananu Ltd and CYGR.
- This follows Sagar Defence Engineering's successful 1,500-km autonomous surface vessel journey from Mumbai to Thoothukudi, supported by the Indian Navy.
- The initiative aligns with the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category, emphasizing 100% indigenous sourcing to reduce import dependency.
- Concept: The Make in India initiative and Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 promote indigenous defence manufacturing to enhance national security.
- The DAC's decision is part of a broader ₹1.05 lakh crore acquisition plan, including Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QR-SAM) and Light Combat Helicopters (Prachand).
- These developments bolster India's defence capabilities amid regional tensions and support its \$20 million defence export contract.

INDIA AND JAPAN SIGN DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY PACT

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- India and Japan signed a defence technology cooperation agreement during a bilateral meet in Tokyo, focusing on co-developing unmanned systems.
- The pact includes joint research on drones and cybersecurity, with Tamil Nadu's defence firms in Chennai invited to collaborate.
- It aims to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The agreement strengthens India's Make in India initiative in defence manufacturing.

- Training programs for Indian Navy personnel will be conducted in Japan.
- Concepts: Strategic Partnership – Bilateral cooperation for mutual security; Indigenous Technology – Promoting local R&D in defence.

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS NEW STEALTH FRIGATE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Nilgiri, a stealth frigate built indigenously at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai, with trials DRDO Unveils Indigenous Stealth Drone
- Subject: Defence
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Ghatak stealth unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) off Tamil Nadu's coast.
- The drone, developed in collaboration with private firms in Chennai, enhances India's air combat capabilities.
- It supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by reducing reliance on foreign defence technology.
- Concept: Self-Reliance in Defence – Promoting indigenous R&D to strengthen national security under the Make in India framework.
- Tamil Nadu's defence corridor in Hosur will manufacture critical components for the drone.
- Challenges include integrating advanced AI systems and ensuring cost-effective production.
- The test bolsters India's deterrence strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.
- conducted off Chennai's coast.
- The frigate enhances India's maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It features advanced radar systems and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- Tamil Nadu's shipbuilding industry is set to benefit from future naval projects.
- The commissioning aligns with India's goal of a 200-ship navy by 2035.

- Concepts: Maritime Security – Protecting national interests at sea; Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Self-reliance in defence production.

DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL APPROVES INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Defence Minister, approved capital acquisition proposals worth ₹1.05 lakh crore on July 23, 2025, under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category.
- Proposals include Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Submersible Autonomous Vessels, and Super Rapid Gun Mounts for the Indian Navy.
- Tamil Nadu's Role: Chennai-based defence firms are involved in supplying components for these indigenous projects.
- National Impact: Strengthens India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing, aligning with Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- Constitutional Relevance: Article 51 promotes international peace and security, supported by a strong defence ecosystem.
- Economic Benefits: Expected to boost MSMEs in Tamil Nadu and other states through defence contracts.
- Challenges: Delays in technology transfer and production timelines may impact project execution.

DRDO UNVEILS INDIGENOUS STEALTH DRONE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Ghatak stealth unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) off Tamil Nadu's coast.
- The drone, developed in collaboration with private firms in Chennai, enhances India's air combat capabilities.
- It supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by reducing reliance on foreign defence technology.
- Concept: Self-Reliance in Defence – Promoting indigenous R&D to strengthen

national security under the Make in India framework.

- Tamil Nadu's defence corridor in Hosur will manufacture critical components for the drone.
- Challenges include integrating advanced AI systems and ensuring cost-effective production.
- The test bolsters India's deterrence strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.

INDIA TEST-FIRES UAV-LAUNCHED PRECISION GUIDED MISSILE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Milestone Achievement: India successfully test-fires the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 at Kurnool's National Open Area Range on July 26, 2025.
- DRDO Innovation: Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile enhances unmanned aerial combat capabilities.
- Strategic Advantage: The ULPGM-V3 enables precise strikes on enemy targets, reducing reliance on manned missions.
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat: The test underscores India's push for indigenous defence technology under the Make in India initiative.
- Global Standing: The missile positions India alongside nations like the US and China in advanced UAV weaponry.
- Concepts: Defence Modernization: Integration of AI and precision tech in military systems.
- No First Use Policy: The missile aligns with India's non-nuclear, conventional deterrence strategy.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TESTS DRONE-LAUNCHED MISSILE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Technological Breakthrough: India tests a UAV-launched precision-guided missile in Andhra Pradesh on July 28, 2025, under DRDO's supervision.

- **Strategic Advantage:** The missile enhances India's capability for targeted strikes in modern warfare, reducing reliance on manned missions.
- **Indigenous Innovation:** The test aligns with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, showcasing advancements in domestic defence technology.
- **Global Context:** India strengthens its position among nations like the US and Israel in UAV-based warfare systems.
- **Applications:** The missile is designed for anti-terror operations and border security, with potential naval integration.
- **Concepts: Defence Modernization:** Integrating advanced technology for national security.
- **Future Plans:** DRDO aims to deploy the system with the Indian Air Force by 2026.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH SINGAPORE AT EXERCISE BOLD KURUKSHETRA

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The 14th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2025, a bilateral military exercise between India and Singapore, began in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- The exercise focuses on mechanized warfare and UN peacekeeping operations, enhancing operational coordination.
- It includes a tabletop exercise and computer-based wargame to validate joint tactics.
- A ceremonial regimental flag handover symbolizes operational synergy between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces.
- The event showcases India's indigenous defence equipment, reinforcing the 'Make in India' initiative.
- **Concept:** Defence diplomacy and India's strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

INDIA APPROVES PROCUREMENT OF K9-VAJRA HOWITZERS

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Ministry of Defence approved the procurement of 100 additional K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers, manufactured by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) with technology from South Korea's Hanwha Defense.
- The 155 mm, 52-calibre howitzers will enhance the Indian Army's artillery capabilities along border regions.
- The deal aligns with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, emphasizing 100% indigenous sourcing.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) also cleared proposals worth ₹1.05 lakh crore for other indigenous defence equipment.
- Tamil Nadu's industrial ecosystem, including L&T's manufacturing units, contributes significantly to defence production.
- **Concept:** Indigenous defence manufacturing and self-reliance in strategic sectors.

NISAR SATELLITE LAUNCH BY ISRO

SUBJECT: DEFENSE/SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using a GSLV Mk-II rocket on July 30, 2025.
- NISAR is the first dual-frequency Earth observation satellite, utilizing L-band and S-band radar to monitor natural disasters, climate change, and resource management.
- Positioned in a polar Sun-synchronous orbit at 747 km with a 98.4° inclination, it provides high-resolution data for global environmental monitoring.
- The mission, a collaboration between ISRO and NASA since 2014, enhances India's space diplomacy and scientific capabilities.
- NISAR will map Earth's surface every 12 days, aiding in disaster preparedness and agricultural planning.
- The launch underscores India's growing role in global space research and aligns with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative for indigenous technology.

DRDO'S PRALAY MISSILE TESTS ENHANCE STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES

SUBJECT: DEFENSE

- The DRDO conducted successful flight tests of the Pralay quasi-ballistic missile on July 30, 2025, off Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- Pralay, a surface-to-surface missile with a 150–400 km range, is designed for precision strikes with advanced guidance systems.
- The tests validated its performance across minimum and maximum ranges, paving the way for induction into the Indian Army.
- The missile strengthens India's non-nuclear deterrence, offering rapid, accurate strikes against strategic targets.
- Developed indigenously, Pralay supports the "Make in India" initiative, reducing reliance on foreign defense technology.
- The tests enhance India's tactical capabilities amid regional security challenges along its borders.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE CAPABILITIES WITH INDIGENOUS ACQUISITIONS

SUBJECT: DEFENCE (NATIONAL)

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved ₹1.05 lakh crore for 100% indigenous defence acquisitions.
- Key approvals include Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, and Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QR-SAM).
- A ₹62,700 crore deal for 156 Prachand Light Combat Helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) was cleared.
- The DAC operates under the Buy (Indian-IDDm) category, promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat – Emphasis on indigenous defence production; National Security – Strengthening military capabilities amid regional tensions.
- These acquisitions enhance India's operational readiness and reduce import dependency.

ECONOMY

RBI MAINTAINS REPO RATE AT 6.5%, SIGNALS CAUTIOUS ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% during its July 2025 monetary policy review, citing global economic uncertainties.
- Inflation remains a concern, with retail inflation projected at 4.8% for FY 2025-26, driven by food price volatility.
- The RBI introduced measures to boost digital payments, including expanding UPI access for small merchants in rural areas.
- Concept: Monetary Policy – RBI's role in balancing inflation and economic growth through interest rate adjustments.
- Tamil Nadu's MSME sector is expected to benefit from new RBI guidelines easing credit access for small businesses.
- The central bank emphasized strengthening cybersecurity in financial institutions to counter rising digital frauds.

RBI SIGNALS POTENTIAL JUMBO RATE CUT TO BOOST ECONOMY

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to announce a 50 basis points (bps) repo rate cut during its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on July 6, 2025.
- This would mark the third consecutive rate cut to stimulate economic growth amid low inflation and global uncertainties.
- The decision aims to enhance credit flow, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and manufacturing sectors.
- The move is expected to lower borrowing costs, potentially boosting consumer spending and investment.
- Economists highlight that the cut reflects India's robust economic position as the 4th largest global economy with a \$4.3 trillion GDP.

- The RBI's strategy also addresses global financial volatility influenced by U.S. fiscal policies and debt ceiling debates.
- This policy shift is anticipated to support India's target of meeting 25% of global energy demand by 2047.

***EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE (ELI) SCHEME
APPROVED BY UNION CABINET***

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Union Cabinet approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to create over 3.5 crore jobs, focusing on formal employment in manufacturing.
- The scheme offers incentives to employers for hiring and retaining workers in formal sectors.
- It aims to boost economic growth by enhancing workforce participation and reducing unemployment.
- The ELI Scheme complements initiatives like Digital India and Skill India to create a skilled, job-ready workforce.
- Special focus is on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to drive regional economic development.
- Tamil Nadu, with its robust industrial ecosystem, is expected to benefit significantly from this scheme.
- The initiative aligns with India's goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by fostering job creation.

ECONOMIC REFORMS: FDI BOOST AND TAMIL NADU'S CHALLENGES

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- India's FDI inflows for FY 2024-25 are projected to cross \$85 billion, with a focus on technology and renewable energy sectors.
- Tamil Nadu, despite its industrial base, saw a 5% decline in FDI share due to delays in land acquisition and regulatory approvals.
- The state government has launched a single-window clearance system to attract investors, targeting electronics and green energy sectors.

- Nationally, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is driving manufacturing growth, with Tamil Nadu hosting key semiconductor projects.
- Concept: Economic Growth – FDI and PLI schemes aim to enhance India's global competitiveness and job creation.
- Tamil Nadu's focus on skill development through ITIs aims to support its industrial revival.
- Challenges include high import dependency on China for critical components, impacting cost efficiency.

UNION BUDGET 2025-26: FOCUS ON GREEN ECONOMY

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Union Finance Minister presented the 2025-26 Budget, allocating ₹2 lakh crore for green energy and sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Key initiatives include subsidies for electric vehicle manufacturing, green hydrogen production, and solar grid expansion.
- The budget aims to create 1 crore green jobs by 2030, aligning with India's net-zero target by 2070.
- A new tax incentive scheme was introduced for MSMEs adopting renewable energy, boosting small-scale industries.
- Concept: Green Economy (SDG 8) promotes sustainable economic growth through low-carbon technologies and job creation.
- The budget also increased funding for coastal states like Tamil Nadu to develop offshore wind energy projects.
- Economists predict the budget will enhance India's global standing in climate finance, attracting foreign investments.

UNION BUDGET 2025-26 PRIORITIZES DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MSME GROWTH

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Union Budget 2025-26 allocated ₹1.8 lakh crore for digital infrastructure and MSME development to boost India's digital economy and job creation.

- Key measures include tax incentives for startups, expansion of 5G networks, and subsidies for MSMEs adopting AI and blockchain technologies.
- The budget aims to create 50 lakh jobs in digital and manufacturing sectors by 2030, supporting India's \$5 trillion economy goal.
- Context: Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 emphasizes inclusive economic growth, which the budget addresses through technology-driven industrialization.
- Tamil Nadu will receive ₹10,000 crore for Chennai's IT corridor and semiconductor manufacturing hubs, boosting its tech ecosystem.
- The budget proposes a new digital payment framework to enhance financial inclusion in rural areas, aligning with Digital India goals.
- Economists predict increased foreign investment in fintech and green technology, strengthening India's global economic position.

TAMIL NADU'S SPACE INDUSTRIAL POLICY GAINS TRACTION

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Tamil Nadu's Space Industrial Policy, unveiled in April 2025, is attracting significant investments, with updates reported on July 10, 2025.
- The policy aims to attract ₹10,000 crore in investments over the next five years, positioning Tamil Nadu as a hub for space technology.
- Key focus areas include satellite manufacturing, launch services, and space research, leveraging Tamil Nadu's industrial ecosystem.
- The policy supports job creation, aiming to generate 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in the space sector.
- Tamil Nadu collaborates with ISRO and private players to establish space-tech clusters in Chennai and Coimbatore.
- **Concept:** Industrial Policy Framework: State-level policies complement national

initiatives like the Indian Space Policy 2023 to boost economic growth.

- This initiative aligns with India's bioeconomy goals, integrating technology and sustainable development.

COAL PRODUCTION SURGES, BOOSTING ENERGY SECURITY

Subject: Economy (National)

- India achieved a record coal production of over 1 billion tonnes in FY 2024–25, reinforcing energy security and reducing import dependency.
- The success is attributed to reforms in the coal sector, involving public sector units (PSUs), private players, and over 5 lakh mine workers.
- Coal sector reforms have saved \$5.43 billion in foreign exchange by December 2024, with imports significantly reduced.
- The Ministry of Coal is focusing on sustainable mining practices to balance economic growth with environmental concerns.
- **Concept:** Energy security as a pillar of economic stability underpins India's self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) initiatives.
- The surge supports industrial growth, particularly in power and steel sectors, critical for economic development.
- Challenges remain in transitioning to greener energy sources while maintaining coal's economic contributions.

TEXTILE EXPORTS RECORD 7% GROWTH IN FY 2023–24

Subject: Economy (National)

- India recorded a 7% rise in textile and apparel exports in FY 2023–24, with major markets in the USA, EU, and UK.
- Government schemes like PM MITRA Parks, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI), and National Technical Textiles Mission drive this growth.
- Measures such as MSP for cotton and zero-duty on Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton enhance sector competitiveness.

- The textile sector employs millions, particularly in states like Tamil Nadu, contributing significantly to rural economies.
- **Concept:** Export-led growth is a key driver of India's economic strategy under the \$5 trillion economy goal.
- Challenges include global competition and dependency on imported raw materials like specialty fibers.
- Tamil Nadu's textile hubs, such as Coimbatore and Tiruppur, play a pivotal role in this export surge.

INDIA'S FDI INFLOWS SHOW REGIONAL DISPARITIES

Subject: Economy (National/International)

- India recorded \$81.04 billion in FDI inflows in FY 2024–25, a 14% growth, the highest in three years.
- Maharashtra and Karnataka attracted 51% of total FDI, while Tamil Nadu's share declined from 11% to 7%.
- Improved infrastructure and policy stability in Maharashtra and Karnataka are key factors driving investor preference.
- Tamil Nadu's decline highlights the need for enhanced industrial policies to compete with other states.
- **Concept:** FDI as a non-debt financial resource is critical for economic development under DPIIT regulations.
- Regional disparities underscore the need for balanced development to ensure equitable economic growth.
- The government is focusing on streamlining regulatory clearances to boost FDI across states.

INDIA'S FDI INFLOWS REFLECT REGIONAL SHIFTS

Subject: Economy (National/International)

- India recorded \$81.04 billion in FDI inflows in FY 2024–25, a 14% growth, the highest in three years.
- Maharashtra and Karnataka attracted 51% of total FDI, while Tamil Nadu's share fell from 11% to 7%.

- Improved infrastructure and policy stability in Maharashtra and Karnataka drive investor preference.
- Tamil Nadu needs enhanced industrial policies to regain its FDI share, focusing on sectors like electronics and renewable energy.
- **Concept:** FDI, regulated by DPIIT, is a non-debt resource critical for economic growth under India's \$5 trillion economy goal.
- Regional disparities highlight the need for balanced development to ensure equitable economic progress.
- The government is streamlining regulatory clearances to boost FDI across states.

NITI AAYOG RELEASES REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

SUBJECT: ECONOMY – NATIONAL

- NITI Aayog launched the "Vision 2047: Sustainable Economic Growth" report, outlining strategies for India's \$10 trillion economy goal.
- The report emphasizes green energy, with a target of 50% renewable energy by 2035.
- It highlights Tamil Nadu's role in solar and wind energy, contributing 15% to India's renewable capacity.
- Recommendations include increasing R&D investment to 2% of GDP and reducing import dependency on critical minerals.
- The report flags skill shortages, noting a 25% gap in green technology expertise in states like Tamil Nadu.
- Concepts: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Aligning economic growth with environmental sustainability.
- Fiscal Federalism: States like Tamil Nadu play a key role in national economic strategies.

TAMIL NADU UNVEILS AMBITIOUS SPACE INDUSTRIAL POLICY

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Tamil Nadu launched its Space Industrial Policy in April 2025, with new developments announced on July 15, 2025,

aiming to attract ₹10,000 crore in investments over the next five years.

- The policy focuses on fostering innovation in satellite manufacturing, launch vehicles, and space research.
- It targets creating 10,000 jobs, particularly in high-tech sectors, boosting Tamil Nadu's economic growth.
- Chennai and Coimbatore are designated as key hubs for space technology development.
- The state government has partnered with ISRO to establish a Space Technology Incubation Centre.
- Incentives include tax breaks and subsidies for startups and MSMEs in the space sector.
- Concept: Industrial Policy: A government framework to promote specific sectors through incentives and infrastructure development.

UNION CABINET APPROVES EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME EXPANSION

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- On July 15, 2025, the Union Cabinet expanded the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, allocating ₹1.2 lakh crore to create 6 crore jobs by 2028.
- The scheme offers wage subsidies of up to ₹15,000 for first-time employees in formal sectors.
- Employers registered with EPFO are eligible for incentives if they create a minimum number of new jobs.
- Tamil Nadu's textile and IT sectors are expected to benefit significantly, with Virudhunagar's PM MITRA Park as a key focus.
- The scheme promotes financial literacy by locking a portion of incentives in savings instruments.
- Concept: Employment Generation: Government initiatives to boost formal job creation through financial incentives.

TAMIL NADU'S SPACE INDUSTRIAL POLICY GAINS MOMENTUM

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Tamil Nadu's Space Industrial Policy, launched in April 2025, targets ₹10,000 crore in investments by 2030 to position the state as a global space technology hub.
- The policy promotes innovation in satellite manufacturing, launch services, and space research, offering incentives for startups and private companies.
- A Space Technology Park is planned in Chennai to foster research and development and industry collaboration.
- Partnerships with ISRO and private firms aim to create 5,000 direct jobs in Tamil Nadu's space sector.
- The state leverages its existing aerospace and defence corridors to strengthen its space industry ecosystem.
- The policy supports India's goal of capturing 10% of the global space economy by 2047.
- Challenges include addressing skill gaps and ensuring regulatory clarity for private space ventures.

INDIA'S BIOECONOMY GROWTH HIGHLIGHTED AT GLOBAL SUMMIT

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- India's bioeconomy reached \$165 billion in 2025, driven by 10,000 biotech startups, as per the India BioEconomy Report 2025.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched **Bio-Sarthi**, a global mentoring initiative for biotech startups, on July 16, 2025.
- Tamil Nadu plays a significant role, with Chennai hosting key biotech research hubs and institutions like the National Institute of Siddha.
- The sector focuses on healthcare, agriculture, and sustainable energy, supporting India's net-zero target by 2070.
- Concepts: Bioeconomy—integrates biotechnology with economic growth for sustainable development.
- Challenges include high R&D costs and the need for global regulatory alignment.

- India aims to double its bioeconomy to \$300 billion by 2030, with Tamil Nadu as a major contributor.

TAMIL NADU UNVEILS ₹2,000 CRORE GREEN ENERGY PROJECT

SUBJECT: ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched a ₹2,000 crore green energy project in Tirunelveli to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030.
- The project includes 500 MW of solar and wind energy capacity, supported by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
- It aims to create 15,000 jobs, focusing on MSMEs in Tamil Nadu's renewable energy sector.
- The state's Space Industrial Policy (April 2025) will complement this by fostering green tech innovation.
- Tamil Nadu's renewable energy push aligns with India's 70% round-the-clock clean electricity goal by 2030.
- Challenges include land acquisition delays and the need for advanced grid storage solutions.
- The project supports India's global credibility as a clean energy leader, as noted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

UNION GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW AI-BASED PACKAGE UNDER DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE

SUBJECT: ECONOMY AND TECHNOLOGY

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹10,000 crore AI-based package under the Digital India Initiative to enhance the digital economy by 2030.
- The package includes establishing AI training centers in key Tamil Nadu cities like Chennai and Coimbatore.
- It aims to train 2 crore youth in AI, machine learning, and cybersecurity, with a focus on rural empowerment.
- Tamil Nadu's Arasu e-Sevai centers will integrate AI tools to streamline public service delivery.

- The initiative aligns with the National AI Strategy, aiming to position India as a global AI hub.
- Concerns raised about ethical AI use, with calls for robust regulatory frameworks.
- Expected to create 1 crore jobs, boosting Tamil Nadu's IT sector.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES ₹1,500 CRORE GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT

SUBJECT: ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

- Tamil Nadu unveiled a ₹1,500 crore green hydrogen project in Thoothukudi to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.
- The project, supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, aims to produce 100 MW of green hydrogen.
- It will create 10,000 jobs, focusing on coastal districts like Nagapattinam.
- The state's Space Industrial Policy (April 2025) will integrate green tech innovation.
- Challenges include high production costs and the need for advanced storage solutions.
- The project aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission.

ECONOMY: RBI SIGNALS CONTINUED ECONOMIC SUPPORT

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on July 19, 2025, hinted at maintaining its accommodative monetary policy stance to support economic growth amid global uncertainties.
- Following a 25-basis-point repo rate cut in June 2025, the RBI is focusing on balancing inflation control with growth, with inflation projected to remain below 4.5% in Q2 2025.
- The central bank emphasized strengthening the rupee to mitigate the impact of India's trade deficit, which stood at \$18.78 billion in June 2025.
- Initiatives like the GoIStats App, launched by MoSPI on June 30, 2025, are aiding real-time economic data access to inform policy decisions.

- **Concept:** Monetary policy, under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934, aims to maintain price stability while supporting economic growth.
- The RBI's measures align with India's projected record wheat and rice production for 2025, expected to stabilize food prices and boost rural incomes.
- These efforts reflect India's strategy to navigate global economic headwinds, including US-China trade tensions impacting commodity markets.

LOK SABHA PASSES FINANCE BILL 2025

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill 2025, introducing tax reforms to boost MSMEs and startups, with a budget allocation of ₹2 lakh crore.
- Key provisions include tax exemptions for startups in tier-2 cities like Coimbatore and reduced GST rates for eco-friendly products.
- Tamil Nadu's textile and leather industries are expected to benefit from new export incentives.
- The bill addresses fiscal deficit concerns, targeting a reduction to 4.5% of GDP by 2026.
- Opposition parties criticized the bill for inadequate relief for rural economies.
- Concepts: Fiscal Policy – Government spending and taxation strategies; MSME Growth – Supporting small and medium enterprises for economic development.

EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME GAINS MOMENTUM

SUBJECT: ECONOMY (NATIONAL)

- The Union Cabinet-approved Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, launched on July 1, 2025, aims to create 5 crore formal jobs by July 2027, with a ₹1 lakh crore allocation.
- The scheme incentivizes first-time hiring and provides employer support to boost youth employability, particularly in manufacturing and MSMEs.

- Tamil Nadu, a key industrial hub, is expected to benefit significantly, with Chennai and Coimbatore emerging as focal points for job creation.
- The initiative aligns with India's \$4 trillion economy, projected to reach \$32 trillion by 2047, emphasizing formal employment growth.
- Challenges include ensuring equitable job distribution across rural and urban areas and addressing skill gaps in the workforce.
- Concepts: Fiscal policy and employment generation are critical for economic growth; the ELI Scheme reflects India's focus on inclusive development.

PM MITRA PARK IN TAMIL NADU BOOSTS TEXTILE SECTOR

SUBJECT: ECONOMY (TAMIL NADU)

- The Union Government approved a ₹1,894 crore development plan for the PM MITRA Park in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, to establish the state as a global textile hub.
- The park aims to attract ₹10,000 crore in investments over five years, creating thousands of direct and indirect jobs.
- It will integrate the entire textile value chain, from spinning to garment manufacturing, enhancing Tamil Nadu's textile export potential.
- The project aligns with India's broader economic goal of strengthening MSMEs and boosting export-driven growth.
- Challenges include ensuring sustainable practices and addressing environmental concerns in textile production.
- Concepts: Industrial clusters like PM MITRA promote economies of scale, fostering regional economic development and global competitiveness.

INDIA'S CPI INFLATION DROPS TO 2.1% IN JUNE 2025

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation fell to 2.1% year-on-year in June 2025, lower than the US (2.7%) and UK (3.6%).

- **Tamil Nadu's Context:** Lower food inflation in the state, driven by stable vegetable and cereal prices, contributed to this trend.
- **RBI's Role:** The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy adjustments, including interest rate stability, supported this decline.
- **Economic Impact:** Low inflation boosts consumer spending, benefiting Tamil Nadu's retail and textile sectors.
- **Challenges:** Global supply chain disruptions and monsoon uncertainties could reverse this trend.
- **Policy Relevance:** Aligns with the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act**, emphasizing economic stability.
- **Future Outlook:** Sustained low inflation could attract foreign investments in Tamil Nadu's industrial corridors.

TAMIL NADU'S GREEN ENERGY PUSH WITH OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS

SUBJECT: ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

- Tamil Nadu announced a ₹25,000 crore investment in offshore wind energy projects along its 1,076 km coastline, unveiled on July 24, 2025.
- The state aims to generate 5 GW of renewable energy by 2030, supporting India's net-zero target by 2070.
- A new Offshore Wind Energy Policy was launched to attract private investors and streamline approvals.
- Tuticorin and Nagapattinam are identified as key sites for wind farm development.
- The initiative includes skill development programs for 10,000 youth in renewable energy technologies.
- Concepts: Renewable Energy, Sustainable Development, State Economic Policy.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTIONS UPGRADED

SUBJECT: ECONOMY/NATIONAL

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised its GDP growth projection for FY 2025–26 to

7.4% on July 24, 2025, citing robust manufacturing and services sectors.

- Tamil Nadu's textile and IT hubs, particularly in Coimbatore and Chennai, are expected to drive this growth.
- The RBI emphasized inflation control measures, targeting a 4% retail inflation rate by Q2 2026.
- Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, especially in semiconductors, were noted as growth catalysts.
- The Economic Survey 2025 highlighted Tamil Nadu's role in India's export-led growth strategy.
- Concepts: GDP Growth, Inflation Targeting, Export-Led Economy.

TAMIL NADU'S GREEN HYDROGEN POLICY ATTRACTS GLOBAL INVESTORS

SUBJECT: ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

- Tamil Nadu launched its Green Hydrogen Policy 2025, securing ₹3,000 crore in investments for clean energy projects.
- The policy targets 1 GW of green hydrogen production by 2030, with hubs planned in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli.
- It offers subsidies for green hydrogen startups and incentives for EV adoption in Chennai.
- Concept: *Clean Energy Transition* – Promoting renewable energy to meet India's net-zero target by 2070 under SDG 7.
- The state signed MoUs with global firms like Siemens for electrolyser manufacturing.
- Challenges include high production costs and infrastructure development for hydrogen distribution.
- The policy aligns with India's National Hydrogen Mission, boosting Tamil Nadu's renewable energy leadership.

TAMIL NADU'S TEXTILE HUB GETS CENTRAL APPROVAL

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- PM MITRA Park: The Union Government approves a ₹1,894 crore plan for the PM

MITRA Textile Park in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, announced on July 26, 2025.

- **Job Creation:** The park is expected to generate 2 lakh direct and indirect jobs, boosting the state's textile sector.
- **Global Competitiveness:** The project aims to position Tamil Nadu as a global textile hub with advanced manufacturing facilities.
- **State Support:** Tamil Nadu's Space Industrial Policy complements the textile initiative, attracting ₹10,000 crore in investments.
- **Sustainability Focus:** The park will incorporate eco-friendly technologies, aligning with India's green manufacturing goals.
- **Concepts: Cooperative Federalism:** Central-state collaboration drives industrial growth.
- **Economic Multiplier Effect:** The park is set to enhance ancillary industries like logistics and dyeing.

TAMIL NADU'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTIONS REVISED UPWARD

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- **Growth Forecast:** Tamil Nadu's economy is projected to grow at 10.2% in 2025-26, driven by manufacturing and renewable energy sectors, as per a state report on July 28, 2025.
- **Key Drivers:** Investments in electronics (Chennai) and green energy (Madurai) contribute to the state's trillion-dollar economy goal by 2032.
- **Budget Allocation:** The state allocates ₹8,000 crore for industrial infrastructure, including new IT parks in Coimbatore.
- **Employment Impact:** The growth is expected to create 10 lakh jobs, particularly in MSMEs and startups.
- **Challenges:** Supply chain disruptions and skill shortages pose risks to sustained growth.
- **Concepts: Inclusive Growth:** Balancing economic development with employment generation.

- **Significance:** Tamil Nadu's economic momentum reinforces its role as a leading industrial hub in India.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTION REVISED BY IMF

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to 6.8%, up from 6.5%, driven by robust domestic consumption.
- Strong rural demand and infrastructure investments are key contributors to this positive outlook.
- Inflation remains a challenge, with the RBI maintaining the repo rate at 6.5% to balance growth and price stability.
- India's growing role in global supply chains, particularly in electronics and pharmaceuticals, was highlighted.
- Challenges include high import dependency on critical inputs like APIs from China, affecting trade balance.
- **Concept:** Economic indicators like GDP growth and inflation, monitored by institutions like the RBI and IMF.

TAMIL NADU'S TEXTILE SECTOR BOOSTED BY PM MITRA PARK

SUBJECT: ECONOMY/TAMIL NADU

- The Union Government approved a ₹1,894 crore development plan for the PM MITRA Park in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, to strengthen the textile industry.
- The park aims to establish Tamil Nadu as a global textile hub, integrating spinning, weaving, dyeing, and garment manufacturing facilities.
- It is projected to create over 2 lakh direct and indirect jobs, enhancing employment in the state's MSME-dominated textile sector.
- The initiative includes eco-friendly measures like water recycling to ensure sustainable operations.
- Tamil Nadu's textile exports, valued at \$34.4 billion in 2023-24, are expected to grow significantly with this infrastructure.

- The project supports Tamil Nadu's vision of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- It aligns with national schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for textiles, boosting India's global competitiveness.

IMF REVISES INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST UPWARD

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised India's growth forecast to 6.4% for FY2025–26 and FY2026–27 in its July 2025 World Economic Outlook Update.
- India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, driven by robust public investment, digital infrastructure, and consumer demand.
- Structural reforms, including labor market flexibility and trade policy enhancements, are key growth enablers.
- Challenges include addressing skill shortages and reducing import dependency to bolster manufacturing.
- Green energy initiatives, such as solar and wind projects, are highlighted as significant economic drivers.
- The forecast underscores India's fiscal consolidation efforts, stabilizing debt-to-GDP ratios and boosting investor confidence.
- India's economic resilience strengthens its role in global economic stability amidst geopolitical uncertainties.

UNION CABINET APPROVES EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME

SUBJECT: ECONOMY (NATIONAL)

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme with a ₹1 lakh crore outlay.
- The scheme targets creating 3.5 crore formal jobs between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027, focusing on youth employability.
- It offers a one-month wage subsidy (up to ₹15,000) for new EPFO-registered

employees with salaries below ₹1 lakh/month.

- The initiative is part of a ₹2 lakh crore employment-skilling package under PM Gati Shakti.
- **Concepts:** Fiscal Policy – Government spending to stimulate job creation; Demographic Dividend – Leveraging India's young workforce for economic growth.
- This move addresses unemployment by incentivizing formal sector hiring.

INDIA'S INFLATION RATE BELOW RBI TARGET IN 2025

SUBJECT: ECONOMY (NATIONAL)

- The Finance Ministry's June 2025 Economic Review projects inflation to remain below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target for 2025.
- Stable food prices and effective monetary policies have contributed to this trend.
- The report highlights structural challenges, such as supply chain disruptions, that could pose risks.
- India's GDP growth is projected to remain robust, supported by government spending and private investment.
- **Concepts:** Monetary Policy – RBI's role in controlling inflation through repo rates; Economic Stability – Balancing growth and price control for sustainable development.
- This underscores India's economic resilience amid global uncertainties.

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH JAPAN AT 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/DEFENCE

- India and Japan held their third 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi, involving foreign and defence ministers, to deepen strategic cooperation.
- Discussions focused on enhancing joint military exercises, including Malabar and Dharma Guardian, to counter regional security challenges.

- A new agreement was signed for co-development of advanced defence technologies, including AI-based drones and cyber warfare systems.
- Both nations emphasized a free and open Indo-Pacific, indirectly addressing China's growing influence in the region.
- Concept: Indo-Pacific Strategy – India's alignment with like-minded nations to ensure maritime security and regional stability.
- Japan pledged support for India's indigenous defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The dialogue included talks on expanding economic ties through investments in India's semiconductor and green energy sectors.

INDIA'S GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC PUSH POST-G20 SUMMIT PREPARATIONS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India launched a diplomatic campaign to strengthen its position ahead of hosting the G20 Summit in November 2025.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met counterparts in Brazil and South Africa to align on climate finance and global trade reforms.
- India advocated for reforms in the UN Security Council, pushing for a permanent seat to reflect its growing global influence.
- Concept: Soft Power Diplomacy – Leveraging cultural and economic outreach to enhance India's global standing.
- Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage, including Kashi Tamil Sangamam, was highlighted as part of India's soft power strategy.
- Discussions included promoting India's renewable energy leadership, particularly in solar and wind energy, under the International Solar Alliance.
- The campaign aims to counter misinformation and build support for India's counterterrorism policies.

INDIA ELECTED TO UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOR 2026-28 TERM

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- India secured a position in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the 2026–28 term with overwhelming global support.
- ECOSOC serves as a central platform for discussing economic, social, and humanitarian policies, aligning with India's sustainable development goals.
- India's election highlights its growing influence in shaping global socio-economic policies and promoting human rights.
- The country aims to advocate for poverty reduction, job creation, and cultural cooperation during its tenure.
- This development strengthens India's role in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- India's diplomatic campaign post-Pakistan conflict contributed to garnering international support for its ECOSOC bid.
- The election aligns with India's vision of a multipolar world and equitable global governance.

INDIA-ARGENTINA STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES DURING PM'S VISIT

Subject: International

- The Prime Minister of India visited Buenos Aires, Argentina, to enhance cooperation in defence, energy, agriculture, and trade.
- Diplomatic ties, established in 1949, are expanding in political, economic, and scientific fields.
- Discussions focused on joint ventures in renewable energy and agricultural technology to boost bilateral trade.
- Defence cooperation includes potential collaborations in military hardware and training programs.
- Argentina's strategic location and resources, like the Andes and Patagonia, make it a key partner for India in South America.

- Both nations aim to align on global issues, including climate change and sustainable development.
- The visit underscores India's assertive foreign policy to strengthen ties with Latin American countries.

INDIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India is leading discussions at the COP30 climate summit (projected for 2025) to advocate for equitable climate finance for developing nations.
- Tamil Nadu's renewable energy initiatives, including 5 GW of new solar capacity, align with India's 500 GW renewable target by 2030.
- India's push for a Loss and Damage Fund has gained traction, addressing climate impacts on vulnerable coastal states like Tamil Nadu.
- The state's mangrove restoration projects in Pulicat Lake are cited as a model for climate adaptation in global forums.
- Concept: Climate Diplomacy – India balances economic growth with sustainable development commitments.
- India's collaboration with ASEAN nations on green technology strengthens its Indo-Pacific strategy.
- Tamil Nadu's ports are being upgraded to support green shipping, reducing carbon emissions.

INDIA SIGNS DEFENCE PACT WITH JAPAN TO COUNTER CHINA'S INFLUENCE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India and Japan signed a strategic defence cooperation agreement to enhance joint military exercises and technology sharing, aimed at countering China's regional assertiveness.
- The pact includes co-development of stealth drones and maritime surveillance systems, strengthening Indo-Pacific security.
- Both nations reaffirmed commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, aligning with the

Quad framework (India, Japan, US, Australia).

- The agreement follows recent tensions along the India-China LAC, underscoring India's multi-alignment strategy.
- Concept: Multi-Vector Diplomacy allows India to balance strategic partnerships without aligning exclusively with any global power.
- The pact boosts India's indigenous defence capabilities under Aatmanirbhar Bharat, leveraging Japan's advanced technology.
- India and Japan plan to conduct joint naval drills in the South China Sea by late 2025 to assert maritime rights.

INDIA-BRAZIL SUMMIT BOLSTERS DEFENCE AND GREEN TECH COOPERATION

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India and Brazil signed agreements on defence and green technology during a summit in New Delhi, aiming to deepen strategic ties and counter China's influence in the Global South.
- Key agreements include co-development of AI-based surveillance systems and collaboration on biofuels and solar energy projects.
- Both nations committed to enhancing trade, with Brazil pushing for agricultural exports and India seeking market access for pharmaceuticals and IT services.
- Context: India's multi-alignment foreign policy strengthens ties with BRICS nations while maintaining strategic autonomy.
- A joint naval exercise in the Indian Ocean is planned for early 2026 to enhance maritime security cooperation.
- The summit aligns with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, leveraging Brazil's expertise in renewable energy.
- Both countries agreed to support each other's bids for permanent UN Security Council seats, reinforcing their global leadership aspirations.

INDIA-UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT DISCUSSIONS ADVANCE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMY

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on June 7, 2025, to discuss the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with progress noted on July 10, 2025.
- The FTA aims to boost bilateral trade, which is currently valued at over \$20 billion annually, by reducing tariffs and enhancing market access.
- Key sectors include textiles, pharmaceuticals, and technology, with India seeking better access for its professionals in the UK.
- The agreement is expected to strengthen economic ties and support India's ambition to become a \$5 trillion economy.
- Discussions also covered defense manufacturing and maritime domain awareness, reflecting a strategic partnership.
- **Concept:** Bilateral Trade Agreements: FTAs facilitate economic integration while balancing national interests, governed by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The FTA aligns with India's Act East Policy and its growing role in global trade frameworks.

INDIA CONDEMNS EU'S CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM AT BRICS SUMMIT

Subject: International (Economy)

- At the 2025 BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, India and other BRICS nations criticized the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- CBAM imposes tariffs on carbon-intensive imports, potentially affecting India's steel and aluminum exports.
- India argues CBAM unfairly burdens developing nations, violating principles of climate equity.
- The summit emphasized collective action to address global trade and climate challenges.

- **Concept:** Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) under UNFCCC guides India's stance on climate policies.
- India is pushing for alternative mechanisms to balance trade and environmental goals.
- The issue strengthens India's leadership in advocating for developing nations in global forums.

BRICS SUMMIT CRITICIZES EU'S CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL – ECONOMY

- At the 2025 BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, India and other members condemned the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- The mechanism imposes tariffs on carbon-intensive imports, potentially impacting India's steel and cement exports.
- India argued that CBAM unfairly targets developing nations, hindering their economic growth.
- The summit proposed a BRICS-led framework for fair trade practices in green transitions.
- Tamil Nadu's industrial sectors, particularly steel, could face a 10% cost increase due to CBAM.
- **Concepts:** Trade Protectionism – Policies like CBAM that affect global trade dynamics.
- **Global South:** India's advocacy for equitable economic policies for developing nations.

INDIA'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO REGIONAL TENSIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India intensified security measures in Jammu and Kashmir following tensions around Martyrs' Day on July 13, 2025, reinforcing its zero-tolerance stance on cross-border terrorism.
- Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, utilized combat drones and stand-off weapons, reflecting India's modernized military approach.

- India engaged diplomatically with SCO nations, including China and Pakistan, at the Defence Ministers' meeting in July 2025.
- Tamil Nadu enhanced its coastal security with the induction of 'Adamya', a Fast Patrol Vessel, into the Indian Coast Guard on June 26, 2025.
- Concepts: Strategic Autonomy—India's policy of independent decision-making in global affairs.
- India's assertive posture aims to counter proxy threats and secure maritime borders.
- Challenges include balancing diplomatic engagement with military preparedness in a volatile region.

INDIA REJECTS SCO JOINT STATEMENT OVER TERRORISM CONCERNS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AND DEFENCE

- India declined to endorse the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) joint statement in Qingdao, China, due to inadequate mention of terrorism.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the Pahalgam terror attack (April 2025) as a key concern, demanding stronger anti-terrorism measures.
- India launched Operation Sindoor in May 2025, targeting terror bases in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- Tamil Nadu's INS Adyar provided logistical support for coastal security drills post-SCO.
- The move reflects India's assertive stance against cross-border terrorism.
- Calls for RIC (Russia-India-China) dialogue to address regional security.
- Experts warn of escalating tensions impacting India's trade routes.

INTERNATIONAL: INDIA STRENGTHENS TIES WITH UAE VIA GOLDEN VISA SCHEME

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- On July 19, 2025, India welcomed the UAE's new nomination-based Golden Visa scheme, offering lifetime residency to Indian nationals without property or business investment.

- The scheme, with a one-time fee of AED 1,00,000 (approx. ₹23.3 lakh), enhances India-UAE people-to-people ties, benefiting skilled Indian professionals and their families.
- The initiative aligns with India's growing diplomatic and economic engagement with the UAE, a key partner in trade and energy security.
- Indian officials noted that the scheme could boost remittances and diaspora contributions to India's economy, with over 3.5 million Indians residing in the UAE.
- **Concept:** Bilateral agreements and diaspora policies strengthen India's global influence, as seen in frameworks like the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The move comes amid India's broader diplomatic campaign, including high-level engagements post the Pakistan conflict, to bolster international support.
- This development is expected to deepen strategic cooperation in trade, defence, and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

INDIA OPPOSES WTO'S FISHERIES SUBSIDIES PROPOSAL

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- At the WTO ministerial meeting in Geneva, India opposed the fisheries subsidies proposal, citing threats to its coastal communities.
- The proposal aims to curb subsidies that contribute to overfishing, but India argues it disadvantages developing nations.
- Tamil Nadu's fishing communities in Chennai and Nagapattinam raised concerns over livelihood impacts.

India proposed alternative measures to support sustainable fishing practices.

- The issue highlights India's push for equitable global trade policies.
- Concepts: Trade Justice – Fair trade policies for developing nations; Livelihood Security – Protecting economic interests of vulnerable communities.

**OPEN DEBATE ON MULTILATERALISM AT UNSC
CHAired BY PAKISTAN**

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, chaired an open debate on "Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes" at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on July 22, 2025.
- The debate emphasized cooperative frameworks for conflict resolution, with India advocating for inclusive multilateralism that respects sovereignty.
- India reiterated its commitment to reformed multilateralism, pushing for UNSC reforms to reflect current geopolitical realities.
- The event precedes another UNSC session on July 23, focusing on the Palestine issue, highlighting India's balanced stance on Middle East peace.
- India's participation underscores its growing role in global diplomacy, aligning with its non-permanent UNSC membership (2021–22) and aspirations for a permanent seat.
- Concepts: Multilateralism involves multiple nations collaborating on global issues; India's foreign policy emphasizes strategic autonomy and global cooperation.

**VANUATU'S CLIMATE CASE AT ICJ GAINS INDIA'S
SUPPORT**

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- Vanuatu, leading over 130 countries, has taken major polluters to the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** for climate accountability, with India expressing support on July 23, 2025.
- The non-binding verdict could reshape international climate law, emphasizing accountability for environmental damage.
- **Tamil Nadu's Stake:** Coastal districts like Chennai and Kanniyakumari face rising sea levels, making climate justice critical.
- **India's Position:** As a developing nation, India balances climate action with economic

growth, advocating for equitable responsibility.

- **Constitutional Link:** Article 48A mandates the state to protect the environment, aligning with India's stance.
- **Challenges:** Limited enforcement mechanisms for ICJ rulings may reduce impact.
- **Significance:** Strengthens India's leadership in global climate diplomacy, especially for vulnerable coastal states like Tamil Nadu.

**INDIA-SINGAPORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
ENHANCED**

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/DEFENCE

- India and Singapore signed a new defence cooperation agreement during a bilateral meet in New Delhi on July 24, 2025, focusing on joint military training.
- The agreement includes technology transfers for advanced radar systems and cybersecurity collaboration.
- Tamil Nadu's Chennai-based defence firms are likely to benefit from joint R&D projects under this pact.
- The partnership strengthens India's Act East Policy, enhancing maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.
- Both nations agreed to conduct annual naval exercises in the Bay of Bengal starting 2026.
- Concepts: Bilateral Defence Ties, Indo-Pacific Security, Technology Transfer.

**INDIA'S ROLE IN G20 CLIMATE FINANCE
FRAMEWORK**

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/ENVIRONMENT

- India played a key role in shaping the G20's Climate Finance Framework during a virtual meeting on July 24, 2025, advocating for equitable funding for developing nations.
- The framework prioritizes grants over loans to support climate adaptation in vulnerable regions like Tamil Nadu's coastal areas.
- India proposed a \$1 trillion annual climate fund, with contributions from developed nations.

- Tamil Nadu's coastal restoration projects, such as mangrove rehabilitation in Pichavaram, were cited as scalable models.
- The initiative aligns with India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and COP30 goals.
- Concepts: Climate Finance, Global South Advocacy, Sustainable Development Goals.

INDIA AND ASEAN SIGN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/ECONOMY

- India and ASEAN signed a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement to boost trade by \$100 billion by 2030.
- Tamil Nadu's textile and automobile sectors in Coimbatore and Chennai will benefit from reduced tariffs on exports to ASEAN markets.
- The agreement includes provisions for digital trade and cross-border e-commerce collaboration.
- Concept: *Regional Economic Integration* – Strengthening trade ties through multilateral agreements to enhance economic growth.
- Challenges include addressing non-tariff barriers and competition from Chinese goods in ASEAN markets.
- The pact strengthens India's Act East Policy, fostering closer ties with Southeast Asia.
- Tamil Nadu's MSMEs are expected to see a 10% rise in exports due to this agreement.

INDIA REJECTS BRICS PROPOSAL ON DIGITAL CURRENCY

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/ECONOMY

- India declined a BRICS proposal to adopt a unified digital currency, citing concerns over monetary sovereignty.
- The decision was announced during the BRICS Finance Ministers' meeting in São Paulo, Brazil.
- Tamil Nadu's fintech ecosystem in Chennai expressed support for India's focus on UPI and digital rupee development.

- Concept: *Monetary Sovereignty* – Protecting national control over currency and financial systems in global economic frameworks.
- India emphasized strengthening its digital payment infrastructure over adopting external models.
- The rejection may strain ties with BRICS members like China but reinforces India's independent economic policy.
- Tamil Nadu's IT sector benefits from continued investment in UPI-based innovations.

INDIA-MALDIVES SIGN LINE OF CREDIT AGREEMENT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/ECONOMY

- Bilateral Boost: India extends a ₹4,850 crore Line of Credit to the Maldives to support infrastructure projects, signed on July 26, 2025.
- Strategic Partnership: The agreement strengthens India's influence in the Indian Ocean Region amid China's growing presence.
- Key Projects: Funds will support road connectivity, renewable energy, and tourism infrastructure in the Maldives.
- Economic Diplomacy: The deal aligns with India's Neighbourhood First Policy and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- Defence Cooperation: Alongside economic aid, India and Maldives discuss maritime security collaboration to counter piracy.
- Concepts: Soft Power: India leverages economic assistance to foster regional goodwill.
- Geopolitical Context: The agreement counters Maldives' earlier pivot towards China under a previous administration.

INDIA-UK FTA IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/ECONOMY

- **Trade Milestone:** The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) takes effect on July 28, 2025, boosting bilateral trade to \$50 billion annually.

- **Key Sectors:** The agreement reduces tariffs on Indian textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT services, while facilitating UK investments in India's renewable energy sector.
- **Tamil Nadu Benefits:** The state's textile and auto component industries, especially in Coimbatore and Chennai, are expected to see a 20% export surge.
- **Strategic Alignment:** The FTA strengthens India's Act West Policy, enhancing economic ties with Europe amidst global trade uncertainties.
- **Challenges:** Domestic industries express concerns over potential import surges impacting local manufacturing.
- **Concepts:** Economic Diplomacy: Leveraging trade agreements to enhance global economic influence.
- **Significance:** The FTA positions India as a key player in global trade, fostering economic resilience.

INDIA RAISES CONCERNS AT BONN CLIMATE TALKS 2025

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- At the Bonn Climate Talks 2025, India reiterated its demand for equitable climate finance and technology transfers to developing nations.
- The talks, a precursor to COP30 in Brazil, saw limited progress due to disagreements over adaptation metrics and funding commitments.
- India emphasized the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' (CBDR) under the UNFCCC framework.
- The delegation stressed the need for developed nations to meet their \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge.
- Tamil Nadu's recent declaration of a Greater Flamingo sanctuary at Dhanushkodi aligns with India's biodiversity conservation commitments.
- **Concept:** Climate justice and India's role in global environmental governance.

INDIA ELECTED VICE-CHAIR OF IPEF SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- India was elected Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) on July 30, 2025.
- The IPEF, comprising 14 nations, aims to enhance supply chain resilience for critical goods like semiconductors and pharmaceuticals.
- India's role involves coordinating efforts to mitigate disruptions and ensure economic stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The election reflects India's growing influence in global trade and economic diplomacy.
- It aligns with India's "Act East" policy, reducing dependency on single-country supply chains, particularly China.
- The council's initiatives support India's strategic interests in securing critical minerals and technology.
- This development strengthens India's position in Indo-Pacific frameworks like the Quad, enhancing regional stability.

INDIA-SRI LANKA DEFENCE COOPERATION STRENGTHENED

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL (NATIONAL)

- India gifted a replica of the Ashokan Pillar to Sri Lanka's Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya, symbolizing cultural and defence ties.
- The gesture commemorates Emperor Ashoka's role in spreading Buddhism, reinforcing India's soft power diplomacy.
- Bilateral defence talks focused on maritime security and joint exercises in the Indian Ocean Region.
- India pledged support for Sri Lanka's coastal surveillance systems to counter regional threats.
- **Concepts:** Neighbourhood First Policy – Prioritizing ties with neighboring countries; Soft Power – Using cultural diplomacy to strengthen international relations.
- This move enhances India's strategic influence in South Asia.

NATIONAL ISSUES***TAMIL NADU'S PALAR RIVER POLLUTION CASE: SUPREME COURT ISSUES NOTICE******SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES/POLITY***

- The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Tamil Nadu government regarding industrial pollution in the Palar River, following a public interest litigation.
- The court directed the state to submit a report on measures to curb tannery-related pollution affecting local communities.
- Concept: Environmental Jurisprudence – Judicial intervention to balance industrial growth and environmental protection.
- Tamil Nadu announced a ₹100 crore plan to restore the Palar River, including setting up new effluent treatment plants.
- The case highlights tensions between economic development and environmental sustainability in industrial hubs like Vellore.
- Local farmers and environmentalists have demanded stricter enforcement of pollution control norms.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES AMMA HOUSING SCHEME 2.0***SUBJECT: POLITY/NATIONAL ISSUES***

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the Amma Housing Scheme 2.0 to provide affordable housing for low-income families.
- The scheme aims to construct 50,000 houses across the state by 2027, prioritizing rural and semi-urban areas.
- It integrates with the PM Awas Yojana, with Tamil Nadu contributing ₹500 crore for the first phase.
- Special provisions include 30% reservation for women-headed households and priority for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.
- Concept: Federalism – Collaboration between state and central governments in implementing welfare schemes.
- The scheme addresses urban migration and slum proliferation, aligning with Tamil Nadu's sustainable development goals.

- Environmental measures include solar-powered lighting in housing complexes to promote clean energy.

C-FLOOD PLATFORM LAUNCHED FOR FLOOD FORECASTING***SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES***

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the C-FLOOD platform, a Unified Inundation Forecasting System.
- Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and Central Water Commission (CWC), it enhances flood prediction accuracy.
- The platform integrates real-time data to provide early warnings and mitigate flood-related damages.
- Tamil Nadu, prone to monsoon flooding, will benefit from improved disaster preparedness through this system.
- It supports the National Disaster Management Authority's efforts to strengthen climate resilience.
- The initiative aligns with India's commitment to sustainable water management and climate adaptation.
- C-FLOOD is a step toward leveraging technology for disaster risk reduction and public safety.

CUSTODIAL VIOLENCE: CALLS FOR POLICE REFORMS INTENSIFY***SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES***

- Recent custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu and other states have sparked nationwide demands for implementing the Prakash Singh guidelines on police reforms.
- The Tamil Nadu government has announced plans to install CCTV cameras in all police stations to enhance transparency.
- The Supreme Court is reviewing a PIL seeking stricter enforcement of Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to curb custodial torture.
- Public protests in Madurai have called for independent investigations into custodial violence cases.

- Concept: Rule of Law – Ensures accountability in law enforcement to protect human rights.
- Tamil Nadu's police training programs are being revised to include human rights education.
- The issue highlights the need for institutional reforms to restore public trust in policing.

SUPREME COURT RULES ON STATE POWERS OVER INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- The Supreme Court delivered a landmark 9-judge bench verdict, affirming states' rights to regulate industrial alcohol under the Concurrent List.
- The ruling resolves a long-standing Centre-State dispute, empowering states like Tamil Nadu to impose taxes and licensing norms.
- Tamil Nadu, a major producer of industrial alcohol, welcomed the verdict, expecting ₹5,000 crore in additional annual revenue.
- The judgment clarifies the scope of Entry 8 (State List) and Entry 52 (Union List), strengthening federal principles.
- Concept: Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule) allows both Centre and States to legislate on subjects like industrial alcohol, with state laws prevailing unless repugnant to central laws.
- The ruling may impact other federal disputes, including those over mining and education policies.
- Industry experts warn of potential regulatory fragmentation, urging uniform national standards.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS STATES' POWER TO REGULATE INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- The Supreme Court dismissed a plea challenging its 9-judge bench verdict granting states the power to regulate industrial alcohol under the Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule).
- The ruling strengthens Tamil Nadu's authority to impose taxes and regulations

on industrial alcohol, boosting state revenue by an estimated ₹6,000 crore annually.

- Tamil Nadu, a major producer, welcomed the decision as a reinforcement of federal principles and state autonomy.
- Context: The Concurrent List allows both Centre and states to legislate on certain subjects, with states having significant regulatory powers over industries like alcohol.
- The verdict resolves a long-standing Centre-state dispute over regulatory control, dating back to conflicts in the 1990s.
- Industry experts predict the ruling will encourage states to develop localized policies for industrial alcohol production and trade.
- The decision aligns with recent judicial trends emphasizing cooperative federalism in India's governance structure.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES TN-KET PROGRAM TO REDUCE TB MORTALITY

Subject: National Issues (Tamil Nadu)

- Tamil Nadu's TB Death-Free Initiative (TN-KET) has significantly reduced TB-related deaths through early detection and a differentiated care model.
- Launched in 2022, TN-KET uses a paper-based triage tool assessing five parameters (BMI, oxygen level, respiratory rate, leg swelling, ability to stand) to identify severe cases.
- 98% of severe TB cases are admitted within seven days, supported by a Severe TB Web App for mortality risk assessment.
- The initiative aligns with India's goal to eliminate TB by 2025, enhancing public health infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.
- **Concept:** State-led public health initiatives under the Concurrent List (List III, Seventh Schedule) strengthen national health goals.
- Tamil Nadu's model is being studied for replication in other states due to its simplified and effective approach.

- Challenges include ensuring sustained funding and addressing comorbidities in TB patients.

SUPREME COURT ADDRESSES POLLUTION IN TAMIL NADU'S PALAR RIVER

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES – ENVIRONMENT

- The Supreme Court issued directives to curb pollution in the Palar River caused by tanneries in Vellore, Tamil Nadu.
- The court mandated stricter effluent treatment norms and regular monitoring by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- It imposed a ₹50 lakh fine on non-compliant industries to fund river restoration efforts.
- The ruling aligns with the National Green Tribunal's guidelines on industrial waste management.
- Local communities in Vellore have been protesting for cleaner water sources, impacting agriculture.
- Concepts: Environmental Jurisprudence – Balancing industrial growth with ecological protection.
- Right to Clean Environment: A facet of Article 21 (Right to Life) under the Constitution.

TAMIL NADU'S TB DEATH-FREE INITIATIVE GAINS NATIONAL ATTENTION

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- Tamil Nadu's TN-KET (Kasanoi Erappila Thittam) program, highlighted on July 15, 2025, has reduced TB-related deaths by 30% since 2022.
- The initiative uses a paper-based triage tool to identify severe TB cases for fast-track care.
- A dedicated TB web app calculates mortality risk, enabling timely interventions.
- The Union Health Ministry is considering scaling TN-KET nationwide as a model for public health.
- The program addresses health disparities, particularly in rural Tamil Nadu, improving access to care.

- Concept: Public Health Innovation: Leveraging technology and simplified tools to address critical health challenges.

POLITY: SUPREME COURT ADDRESSES ELECTORAL REFORMS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Supreme Court of India, on July 19, 2025, issued a notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding a plea for stricter verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to enhance electoral transparency.
- The court emphasized the need for robust mechanisms to address public concerns about EVM tampering, aligning with the principle of free and fair elections.
- A bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna directed the ECI to submit a detailed affidavit on VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) implementation by August 2025.
- The plea also seeks mandatory cross-verification of at least 50% of VVPAT slips to ensure voter confidence in the electoral process.
- **Concept:** Article 324 of the Constitution grants the ECI superintendence, direction, and control over elections, underscoring its role in ensuring electoral integrity.
- This development follows the ECI's recent SOP ensuring EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) delivery within 15 days, announced on June 19, 2025.
- The court's intervention reflects growing public discourse on electoral reforms and the need for technological accountability in democratic processes.

KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS CELEBRATED ON 26TH ANNIVERSARY

SUBJECT: NATIONAL/DEFENCE

- Nationwide Commemoration: India marks the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, 2025, honoring the victory in the 1999 Kargil War against Pakistan.
- Tributes to Martyrs: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh pay homage to fallen soldiers at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh.

- Operation Vijay: The Indian Army's Operation Vijay successfully recaptured strategic heights in Kargil, showcasing bravery under extreme conditions.
- Defence Reforms Highlighted: The government emphasizes ongoing military modernization, including indigenous projects like the Prachand Light Combat Helicopter.
- Public Engagement: Nationwide events, including school programs and veteran felicitations, promote awareness of soldiers' sacrifices.
- Concepts: National Security: Kargil War underscored the need for robust border defence and intelligence coordination.
- Agnipath Scheme: Discussions on the scheme's role in building a future-ready, youthful armed force gain traction during the event.

TAMIL NADU'S SIDDHA INSTITUTE SETS NEW GUINNESS RECORD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- The National Institute of Siddha (NIS) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, set a Guinness World Record for conducting the largest Varmam therapy session with 567 participants.
- Varmam therapy, a traditional Tamil healing practice, focuses on vital pressure points to treat ailments.
- The event highlights Tamil Nadu's efforts to promote traditional medicine systems globally.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin hailed the achievement as a step toward integrating Siddha with modern healthcare.
- The state plans to establish more Siddha research centers to document and validate traditional practices.
- **Concept:** Promotion of indigenous knowledge systems under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

POLITY

TAMIL NADU'S MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COLLEGE TEACHERS RELEASED

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Tamil Nadu's Higher Education Department has released a draft Model Code of Conduct for college teachers, emphasizing ethical behavior and professional standards.
- The code focuses on regulating social media usage, ensuring political neutrality, and promoting inclusivity in classrooms.
- It prohibits discrimination based on caste, gender, or religion, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Teachers are advised against associating with politically disruptive movements to maintain academic integrity.
- Universities are encouraged to localize the code based on institutional needs and conduct periodic ethics training.
- Feedback mechanisms will be established to refine the policy, involving stakeholders like students and faculty.
- The initiative aims to foster a respectful and inclusive academic environment in Tamil Nadu's higher education institutions.

TAMIL NADU'S PUSH FOR GREATER LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Tamil Nadu government continues its legal challenge against Governor R.N. Ravi in the Supreme Court over delays in assenting to state bills, citing violations of Article 200.
- The state argues that the Governor's actions, including reserving bills like the Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill for the President, undermine federal principles.
- Recent protests in Chennai by DMK and allied parties have highlighted this as an attempt to centralize power, impacting state legislative efficiency.
- The Supreme Court is expected to clarify guidelines on the Governor's discretionary powers, potentially setting a national precedent.

- Tamil Nadu's case draws parallels with similar disputes in Kerala and Telangana, emphasizing Centre-State tensions.
- Concept: Federal Structure – Article 200 governs the Governor's role in assenting or reserving bills, balancing state and central authority.
- The issue underscores the need for a time-bound framework to prevent gubernatorial overreach in non-BJP-ruled states.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION AGAINST ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution opposing the Union Government's "One Nation, One Election" proposal, arguing it undermines federalism and state autonomy.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin stated that simultaneous elections would weaken regional parties and disrupt state-specific governance cycles.
- The resolution urges the Centre to consult states extensively before implementing such a reform, citing logistical and democratic concerns.
- Tamil Nadu's opposition aligns with other non-BJP-ruled states like Kerala and West Bengal, highlighting a growing Centre-State divide.
- Concept: Federal Structure (Article 1) defines India as a Union of States, with elections to state legislatures under state election commissions.
- The resolution reflects Tamil Nadu's consistent stance on protecting state rights, seen in its earlier opposition to NEP 2020.
- The debate on simultaneous elections is expected to intensify as the Union Government pushes for constitutional amendments.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY OPPOSES ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION PROPOSAL

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution opposing the central government's "One Nation, One Election"

proposal, citing threats to federalism and state autonomy.

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin argued that simultaneous elections could undermine regional diversity and disrupt state-specific governance cycles.
- The resolution urged the Centre to consult states extensively before pursuing constitutional amendments for this reform.
- Context: Article 1 defines India as a Union of States, with state elections managed by State Election Commissions, reinforcing federal principles.
- Tamil Nadu's stance aligns with other states like Kerala and West Bengal, highlighting tensions in Centre-state relations.
- The proposal is expected to be tabled in Parliament by late 2025, potentially reshaping India's electoral framework.
- This move strengthens Tamil Nadu's advocacy for state rights against centralized policies.

TAMIL NADU DESIGNATES DHANUSHKODI AS GREATER FLAMINGO SANCTUARY

SUBJECT: POLITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- The Tamil Nadu government has officially notified Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district as a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary, covering 524.7 hectares within the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.
- The sanctuary was inaugurated by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on World Environment Day (June 5, 2025) to protect migratory birds and marine biodiversity.
- It aims to safeguard Greater Flamingos and other wetland birds along the Central Asian Flyway, enhancing Tamil Nadu's biodiversity conservation efforts.
- The notification was issued via a Government Order on June 4, 2025, under the state's environmental governance framework.
- This move aligns with India's commitments to global biodiversity frameworks like SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- The sanctuary strengthens Tamil Nadu's eco-tourism potential while promoting sustainable coastal management.
- **Concept:** Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Empowers states to declare sanctuaries for the protection of flora and fauna, reflecting cooperative federalism in environmental policy.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S SAFETY

Subject: Polity (Tamil Nadu)

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed amendments to strengthen laws protecting women, introduced by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
- The bill revises punishments under existing laws, increasing penalties for crimes against women and introducing stricter provisions for repeat offenders.
- It includes measures to expedite trials in cases of gender-based violence, aiming to ensure faster justice delivery.
- The amendments align with Tamil Nadu's ongoing efforts to improve gender safety and align with national women empowerment policies.
- **Concept:** Legislative competence under the Concurrent List (List III, Seventh Schedule) allows states to enact laws on criminal justice.
- The bill responds to rising demands for stronger legal frameworks to address gender-based violence in the state.
- Tamil Nadu's proactive legislative measures set a precedent for other states to strengthen women's safety laws.

TAMIL NADU'S NEW GLASS BRIDGE IN KANNIYAKUMARI INAUGURATED

Subject: Polity/National Issues (Tamil Nadu)

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated a ₹37 crore glass bridge connecting the Tiruvalluvar Statue and Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari.
- The 77-meter-long, 10-meter-wide bridge ensures safe access between landmarks, overcoming challenges posed by rough seas.

- Built under the Namakku Naame Thittam, it promotes tourism and cultural heritage in Tamil Nadu.
- The bridge aligns with state policies to boost infrastructure and eco-tourism.
- **Concept:** Decentralized governance through state-led initiatives enhances public infrastructure and regional development.
- The project is expected to increase tourist footfall, benefiting the local economy.
- Challenges include ensuring structural safety and environmental sustainability.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES DIGITAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

SUBJECT: POLITY – TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government launched the "Digital Tamil Nadu Mission" to enhance e-governance across the state.
- The initiative aims to digitize all public services, including land records and welfare schemes, by 2027.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated a unified digital platform for seamless access to government services.
- Over 10 lakh citizens in Chennai and Coimbatore will benefit from pilot projects starting in August 2025.
- The state allocated ₹500 crore for AI-driven grievance redressal systems.
- **Concepts:** E-Governance – Leveraging technology to improve transparency and efficiency in governance.
- **Cooperative Federalism:** Aligns with the central government's Digital India initiative.

GST REFORMS UNDER DISCUSSION LED BY UNION HOME MINISTER

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah initiated consultations on July 16, 2025, to streamline the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in India.
- The discussions aim to simplify tax slabs, reduce compliance burdens, and address state revenue concerns.

- Tamil Nadu has pushed for greater fiscal autonomy in GST revenue-sharing to support state-specific development initiatives.
- The GST Council is exploring the inclusion of petroleum products under GST to create a unified tax framework.
- Concepts: Cooperative Federalism (Article 246A)—defines the GST Council's role in harmonizing Centre-State tax policies.
- Challenges include balancing revenue demands with industry calls for lower tax rates.
- The reforms seek to enhance India's ease of doing business and economic competitiveness.

UNION CABINET APPROVES EXPANSION OF DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE

SUBJECT: POLITY AND NATIONAL ISSUES

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a ₹50,000 crore expansion of the Digital India Initiative to enhance digital infrastructure and literacy by 2030.
- The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide in rural areas, with a focus on Tamil Nadu's remote districts like Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.
- Key components include 5G connectivity expansion, AI-driven governance tools, and digital skill training for 10 crore citizens.
- Tamil Nadu's e-Governance model, including the Arasu e-Sevai centres, will be integrated into the national framework.
- The program aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to promote digital learning in schools.
- Concerns raised about data privacy, with calls for stricter implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- Expected to create 2 crore jobs, boosting formal employment in tech-driven sectors.

TAMIL NADU'S ANTI-HINDI AGITATION RESURFACES IN LANGUAGE POLICY DEBATE

SUBJECT: POLITY AND NATIONAL ISSUES

- Tamil Nadu's political parties reignited the anti-Hindi agitation, protesting the Centre's push for Hindi in official communications.
- The Dravidian movement emphasized Tamil's cultural and linguistic pride, citing Article 343 of the Constitution, which recognizes regional languages.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced ₹50 crore for Tamil language promotion, including digital archives and global Tamil conferences.
- The Union Home Minister's Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA) initiative aims to balance regional languages with administrative efficiency.
- Protests in Chennai and Madurai demanded equal status for Tamil in central government offices.
- The issue reflects broader regionalism concerns, with Tamil Nadu advocating for state autonomy in language policy.
- The Supreme Court urged dialogue to prevent linguistic chauvinism while upholding constitutional values.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY DEBATES ANTI-CONVERSION LAW

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly discussed a proposed Anti-Conversion Law to regulate religious conversions, sparking heated debates.
- The DMK government emphasized protecting individual rights while addressing forced conversions.
- Opposition parties argued the law could infringe on religious freedom under Article 25.
- The bill includes penalties for coerced conversions, aiming to maintain social harmony.
- Public consultations are planned in Chennai, Madurai, and Trichy before finalization.
- Concepts: Freedom of Religion – Constitutional right under Article 25; Secularism – State neutrality in religious matters.

TAMIL NADU'S ANTI-CONVERSION LAW DEBATE INTENSIFIES

SUBJECT: POLITY (TAMIL NADU)

- The Tamil Nadu government is facing scrutiny over its proposed Anti-Conversion Law, with debates centering on Article 25 (Freedom of Religion) of the Constitution.
- Critics argue the law may infringe on individual rights, while supporters claim it protects vulnerable communities from coerced conversions.
- The state assembly is reviewing public feedback, with consultations involving religious leaders and civil society groups to ensure constitutional compliance.
- The issue mirrors similar laws in states like Uttar Pradesh, where the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024, tightened regulations.
- Tamil Nadu's law aims to balance religious freedom with preventing fraudulent conversions, a sensitive issue in the state's diverse socio-religious landscape.
- Concepts: Article 25 guarantees freedom to profess, practice, and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, and health.

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY 2025 ENHANCES ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL (POLITY)

- The National Sports Policy, approved on July 1, 2025, aims to integrate sports into daily life and position India as a global sports powerhouse.
- Key features include promoting mass participation, introducing fitness indices in schools and workplaces, and fostering an athlete-centric ecosystem.
- Tamil Nadu is implementing the policy through initiatives like the Khelo India centers, with Chennai hosting new training facilities.
- The policy emphasizes sports-education integration, embedding sports in academic curricula for holistic development.

- Governance reforms strengthen National Sports Federations for transparency and financial sustainability.
- Concepts: Public policy in sports promotes social inclusion, health, and national pride, aligning with India's vision for global leadership.

BHARAT NCX 2025 CYBERSECURITY EXERCISE LAUNCHED

SUBJECT: POLITY/DEFENCE

- The **National Cybersecurity Exercise – Bharat NCX 2025** was inaugurated on July 21, 2025, by Deputy National Security Advisor T. V. Ravichandran at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).
- Organized by the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** in collaboration with RRU, it focuses on the theme “Enhancing the Operational Preparedness of Indian Cyberspace.”
- The two-week national cyber drill simulates real-world threats like critical infrastructure attacks, deepfakes, API flaws, and autonomous malware.
- It brings together cybersecurity experts, defence forces, policymakers, and industry leaders to strengthen India's cyber defence capabilities.
- **Tamil Nadu's Role:** The state's IT hubs, particularly Chennai, are contributing expertise through participation from local tech firms and academic institutions.
- **Constitutional Relevance:** Article 51A(j) emphasizes the duty of citizens to strive for excellence in scientific advancements, aligning with cybersecurity as a national priority.
- **Significance:** Enhances India's readiness for cyber threats, critical for national security in the digital age.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES WOMEN'S SAFETY AMENDMENTS

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, is debating amendment bills to enhance punishments for crimes against women, introduced in early 2025.

- These amendments aim to revise the **Indian Penal Code** and **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act** to impose stricter penalties and faster judicial processes.
- **Key Provisions:** Include life imprisonment for repeat offenders and mandatory gender sensitization for police personnel.
- **Context:** Responds to rising concerns over women's safety in urban and rural Tamil Nadu.
- **Constitutional Link:** Article 15(3) allows special provisions for women, supporting these legislative measures.
- **Challenges:** Implementation faces hurdles due to judicial backlogs and lack of awareness in rural areas.
- **Significance:** Strengthens Tamil Nadu's commitment to gender justice and social equity.

SUPREME COURT'S DIRECTIVE ON ELECTORAL BOND TRANSPARENCY

SUBJECT: POLITY/NATIONAL

- The Supreme Court, on July 24, 2025, directed the Election Commission to enhance transparency in political funding by mandating real-time disclosure of electoral bond contributions.
- The ruling aims to address concerns over anonymous donations, building on the 2024 verdict declaring the Electoral Bond Scheme unconstitutional.
- Political parties must now submit donor details to the Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving funds.
- The directive aligns with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, emphasizing the public's right to information.
- Tamil Nadu's political parties, including DMK and AIADMK, are expected to comply, impacting state-level campaign financing.
- The Court also urged the Centre to propose a new framework for transparent political funding by September 2025.
- **Concepts:** Electoral Reforms, Right to Information, Judicial Activism.

TAMIL NADU PASSES BILL TO STRENGTHEN URBAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed the *Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Amendment) Bill, 2025*, enhancing the powers of urban local bodies (ULBs) like corporations and municipalities.
- The bill grants ULBs greater authority over urban planning and revenue generation, including property tax reforms.
- It aligns with the 74th Constitutional Amendment, aiming to strengthen municipal governance.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin emphasized empowering ULBs to address urban challenges like waste management and infrastructure.
- **Concept:** *Municipal Autonomy* – Article 243W empowers states to devolve functions to ULBs for effective urban governance.
- Opposition parties called for capacity-building programs to ensure efficient implementation.
- The bill is expected to boost Chennai's Smart City projects and improve urban service delivery.

TAMIL NADU OPPOSES MEKEDATU PROJECT IN CAUVERY DISPUTE

SUBJECT: POLITY/NATIONAL ISSUES

- **State's Stance:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin reiterates opposition to Karnataka's Mekedatu dam project during a state assembly session.
- **Inter-State Water Dispute:** The project, proposed at the Cauvery-Arkavathi confluence, is seen as a threat to Tamil Nadu's water share.
- **Legal Framework:** Tamil Nadu cites the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award and Supreme Court rulings to protect its irrigation needs.
- **Farmer Protests:** Farmers' associations in the Cauvery delta region stage demonstrations, urging central intervention.

- **Centre's Role:** The Union Jal Shakti Ministry is urged to mediate, with Tamil Nadu seeking inclusion in the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) discussions.
- **Concepts: Federalism:** Balancing state rights in inter-state river disputes under Article 262.
- **Environmental Concerns:** The dam's potential ecological impact on the Cauvery basin fuels Tamil Nadu's resistance.

CENTRE-TAMIL NADU TUSSLE OVER EDUCATION POLICY INTENSIFIES

SUBJECT: POLITY/NATIONAL ISSUES

- **Policy Dispute:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, on July 28, 2025, reiterates opposition to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, advocating for a state-specific education framework.
- **Key Concerns:** The state argues that NEP's push for a three-language policy undermines Tamil linguistic identity and centralizes education control.
- **State Initiatives:** Tamil Nadu launches a ₹3,000 crore scheme to modernize government schools, focusing on bilingual education and digital infrastructure.
- **Centre's Response:** The Union Education Ministry defends NEP, emphasizing its flexibility and alignment with national development goals.
- **Federal Tension:** The disagreement highlights broader Centre-state conflicts over education, a Concurrent List subject under Schedule VII.
- **Concepts:** Cooperative Federalism: Balancing state autonomy with national policy objectives.
- **Impact:** The outcome could influence education policy frameworks across other states, shaping India's federal structure.

TAMIL NADU PROTESTS AGAINST CUSTODIAL DEATH

SUBJECT: POLITY/NATIONAL ISSUES

- **Public Outrage:** A massive protest in Chennai, led by actor-politician Vijay on July

28, 2025, demands justice for a recent custodial death in Sivagangai district.

- **Case Details:** The victim, a temple guard, allegedly died due to police brutality, prompting a CBI investigation ordered by the Madras High Court.
- **Government Response:** Tamil Nadu government announces ₹25 lakh compensation and a judicial inquiry to address public concerns.
- **Policy Implications:** The incident reignites debates on police reforms and the enforcement of Article 21 (Right to Life).
- **Public Sentiment:** Civil society groups call for stricter implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- **Concepts:** Rule of Law: Ensuring accountability in law enforcement to uphold fundamental rights.
- **Impact:** The protests could push for systemic changes in police accountability mechanisms.

TAMIL NADU CABINET APPROVES KEY POLICY AMENDMENTS

SUBJECT: POLITY (TAMIL NADU)

- The Tamil Nadu Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, approved amendments to the Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2025 to boost investment in space technology.
- The policy aims to attract ₹10,000 crore in investments over five years, positioning Tamil Nadu as a hub for space innovation.
- A new legislative bill was introduced to enhance protections for women, focusing on stricter penalties for gender-based violence.
- The Cabinet approved ₹1,894 crore for the PM MITRA Textile Park in Virudhunagar, aligning with national industrial growth plans.
- **Concepts:** State List (Seventh Schedule) – States have authority over industrial policies under Entry 24; Federalism – Cooperative efforts between state and central governments for economic development.

- The amendments reflect Tamil Nadu's proactive governance in aligning with global trends.

SOCIAL WELFARE

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT FOR ESSENTIAL COMMODITY DELIVERY

SUBJECT: POLITY/SOCIAL WELFARE

- The Tamil Nadu State government initiated a pilot project in Chennai to deliver essential commodities directly to senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- The initiative, launched under the state's welfare scheme, aims to enhance accessibility and support vulnerable populations.
- It involves collaboration with local cooperatives to ensure timely delivery of essentials like groceries and medical supplies.
- The project aligns with the state's broader vision of inclusive governance and social equity.
- Plans are in place to expand the scheme to other districts, including Coimbatore and Madurai, based on the pilot's success.
- The initiative supports the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin emphasized that the project reflects Tamil Nadu's commitment to social justice and welfare-driven governance.

SPREE 2025 INITIATIVE ENHANCES SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE

SUBJECT: POLITY/SOCIAL WELFARE

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) launched SPREE 2025 to expand social security coverage under the ESI Act.
- Approved during ESIC's 196th meeting, the initiative targets unorganized sector workers, including those in Tamil Nadu's textile and manufacturing hubs.

- It aims to provide affordable healthcare and insurance benefits to low-income workers, enhancing social equity.
- Tamil Nadu, with its significant industrial workforce in cities like Coimbatore and Tiruppur, is a key focus area for SPREE 2025.
- The initiative supports India's broader goal of universal social security as part of the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme.
- It includes digital tools for easier enrollment and claim processing, aligning with the Digital India initiative.
- The program is expected to benefit over 3.5 crore workers nationwide, with Tamil Nadu playing a pivotal role due to its large labor base.